

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges: Degree Options for Servicemembers



DANTES Services Workshop

March 30, 2005

Presenter: Kathy M. Snead

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC)



SOC, established in 1972, is a consortium of national higher education associations and over 1830 institutional members.

Functions in cooperation with the Department of Defense, the Military Services, including the National Guard and the Coast Guard, to help meet the voluntary higher education needs of servicemembers.

SERVICEMEMBERS OPPORTUNITY COLLEGES

Sponsoring Organizations

American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Association of Community Colleges



Cooperating Organizations

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Council on Education
Association of American Colleges and Universities
Association of American Universities
Career College Association
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
Distance Education and Training Council
Education Commission of the States
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges
State Higher Education Executive Officers

U.S. Air Force
U.S. Navy

U.S. Army
U.S. Marine Corps

U.S. Coast Guard
National Guard Bureau

Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense

SOC Principles

- **Servicemembers share the same educational opportunities available to their civilian counterparts**
- **Educational programs that are provided by appropriately accredited colleges and universities**
- **Educational programs that are flexible in terms of scheduling, academic residency, course transfer, and acceptance of non-traditional credit**

SOC Consortium

Criteria for Membership

- **Reasonable with Transfer of Credit**
 - Minimum loss of previously earned credits
 - Avoid coursework duplication
- **Reduced Academic Residency Requirements**
 - 25% maximum for most programs
 - 30% for schools providing undergraduate degrees 100% online
 - No final year or semester requirement
- **Credit for Military Training and Experience**
 - Award credit for military service schools
 - Recognize and Use *ACE Guide* in evaluating military training experiences
- **Award Credit for National Recognized Testing Programs**
 - Award credit for at least one nationally recognized testing program such as CLEP (General and Subject exams), DSST (DANTES Standardized Subject Tests), ECE (Excelsior College Examinations)

The SOC Guide

SOC GUIDE 2003-2005 INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

Chapman University

One University Drive, Orange, CA 92866

<http://www.chapman.edu/>

Accredited by Western Association (WASC-Sr). Approved to operate in California and Washington. Associate, Bachelors, Masters Degrees. Private. Semester system. AACRAO, ACE, AAC&U. Undergraduate admissions test required: SAT or ACT.

SOC designation applies to the entire institution. Institution participates in ConAP.

SOC Institutional Representative:

Anne C. Delfin-Schirch
Associate Registrar
(714) 530-6033
Fax: (714) 628-2707
schirch@chapman.edu

SOC Counselor:

Farrak Javadi
Articulation Officer
(714) 997-6633
Fax: (714) 628-2707
javadi@chapman.edu

MILITARY PROGRAMS

Military Installation(s) Served/Supervisor Designated by Institution:

29 Palms Marine Corps Base, CA/Ron Stephens; Bangor Naval Submarine Base, WA/Ken Brauchle; Concord Naval Weapons Station, CA/Susanne Hamilton; Coronado Naval Base, CA/Maria Gier; Edwards Air Force Base, CA/Jerry Witte; Fort Lewis, WA/Ken Brauchle; Lemoore Naval Air Station, CA/Glen Parsons; Los Angeles Air Force Station, CA/Ladd Graham; McChord Air Force Base, WA/Ken Brauchle; San Diego Fleet Antisubmarine Warfare Training Center, CA/Maria Gier; San Diego Marine Corps Recruit Depot, CA/Maria Gier; San Diego Naval Station, CA/Maria Gier; Travis Air Force Base, CA/Susanne Hamilton; Vandenberg Air Force Base, CA/Patricia Graham; Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, WA/Barbara Bockman.

Degree Programs at Installations and Networks Offered:

SOCMAR-2: 29 Palms Marine Corps Base (Interdisciplinary Studies); San Diego Marine Corps Recruit Depot (Interdisciplinary Studies).
SOCMAR-4: 29 Palms Marine Corps Base (Information Systems Management, Interdisciplinary Studies); San Diego Marine Corps Recruit Depot (Computer Studies, Information Systems Management, Interdisciplinary Studies).
SOCNAV-2: 29 Palms Marine Corps Base (Interdisciplinary Studies); Bangor Naval Submarine Base (Interdisciplinary Studies); Coronado Naval Base (Interdisciplinary Studies); Lemoore Naval Air Station (Interdisciplinary Studies); San Diego Naval Station (Interdisciplinary Studies); Whidbey Island Naval Air Station (Interdisciplinary Studies).
SOCNAV-4: 29 Palms Marine Corps Base (Information Systems Management, Interdisciplinary Studies); Bangor Naval Submarine Base (Computer Studies, Information Systems Management, Interdisciplinary Studies); Lemoore Naval Air Station (Interdisciplinary Studies); San Diego Naval Station (Computer Studies, Information Systems Management, Interdisciplinary Studies); Whidbey Island Naval Air Station (Information Systems Management, Interdisciplinary Studies).

NON-TRADITIONAL CREDIT POLICIES

Credit for non-traditional learning:

Maximum 32 semester hours for national credit-by-exam programs

Maximum 32 semester hours for all forms of non-traditional learning

Comments: Contact SOC institutional rep or counselor (above) for current minimum scores required for credit-by-exam. Credit for non-traditional learning depends on major and program of study.

Recognition of non-traditional learning:

Examinations:	Credit Awarded	Maximum Credit	Required Score
CLEP General Examinations:			
English Composition	Yes	3	ACE Rec
Essay Required?	Yes		
Humanities	Yes	3	ACE Rec
Mathematics	No		
Natural Sciences	Yes	6	ACE Rec
Social Sciences and History	Yes	6	ACE Rec
CLEP Subject Examinations	Some		
DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSSTs)	Some		
Excelsior College Examinations (ECE)	None		
College Board Advanced Placement Exams	All		
Prof. Certification Exams in ACE Exam Guide	None		

Military Training and Experience:

ACE Guide recommended credit for:

Military training courses	All
Army MOS	All
Navy Rates and Ratings	All
Marine Corps MOS	All
Coast Guard Rates and Ratings	All

Other:

ACE Training Programs Guide (CREDIT) credit	Some
Experiential learning (portfolio method)	Some

Effective date of this information: 2 December 2002

Note: NSP = No set policy

College information on member institutions:

- organized alphabetically by state
- published every two years, paper-based and CD-ROM
- updated member list on SOC Web site

Responsibilities of SOC Institutional Representatives

Responsible for implementing and overseeing institution's compliance with SOC Principles and Criteria

- Serve as institutional point of contact for college information to servicemembers, veterans, and their family members**
- Serve as chief institutional advocate for servicemembers' education**
- Working knowledge of your institution's transfer and evaluated credit policies**
- Keep senior institutional leadership apprised of issues affecting education of servicemembers**

Responsibilities of SOC Counselors

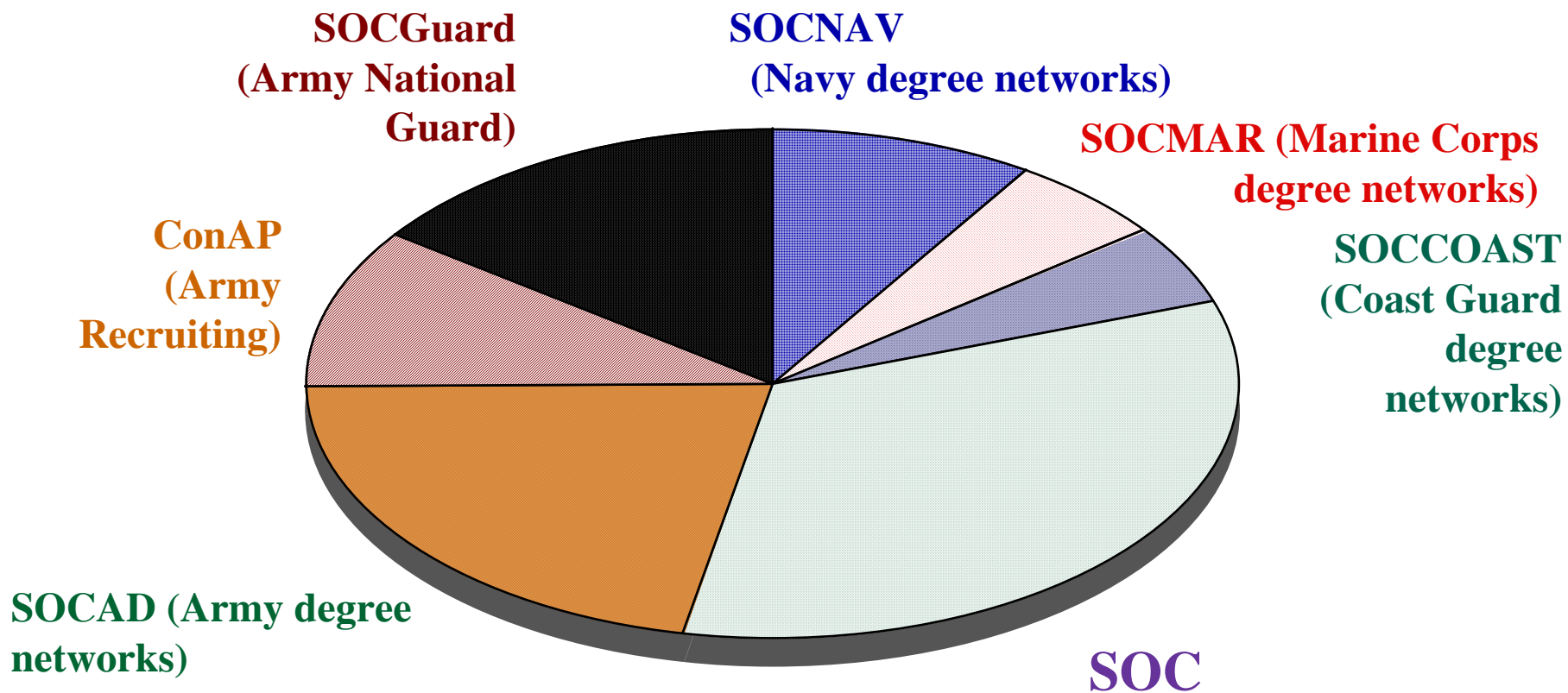
Responsible for advisement of military students participating in programs under SOC designation

- Read and understand SOC Principles and Criteria**
- Possess working knowledge of your institution's transfer and evaluated credit policies**
- Be able and available to counsel servicemembers, veterans, and their adult family members regarding your institution's educational programs and services**

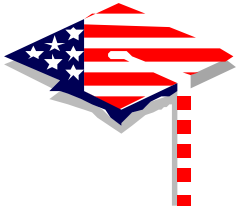
SOC Guide on CD



SOC's Organizational Components



Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges
1307 New York Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 800-368-5622; 202-667-0079; Fax: 202-667-0622



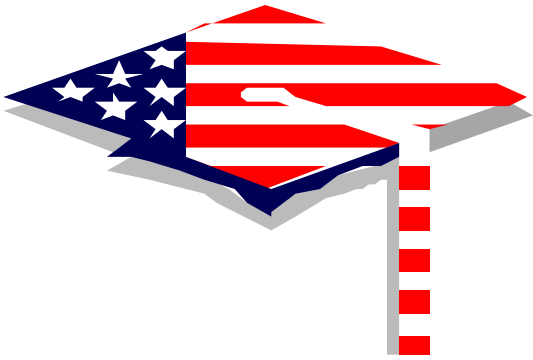
What is ConAP?

Joint Program Between:

- Army Recruiting Command**
- Participating ConAP colleges**
- Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC)**

Goals:

- Increase enlistment of college-capable men and women
who are postponing college or delaying completion**
- Increase number of Army veterans and Reserve soldiers
enrolled in college**



ConAP Concept

- **Recruiters refer soldiers to college concurrent with their enlistment – emphasis on local colleges**
- **Soldiers state their intent to enroll during the enlistment (distance learning) or after discharge**
- **Colleges provide guidance on applying for admission, preparing for the academic experience, and staying in touch by Web site and e-mail**
- **Returning ConAP soldiers must apply admission**



Payoff

- Soldiers
 - Plan to attend college and pay for college
 - Have a “home college”
- Recruiters
 - Enlist college-capable soldiers
 - Enlist soldiers with college experience
 - Understand college academic programs
 - Link enlistee MOS to academic programs
 - Partnerships with faculty
- Colleges
 - Enroll more veterans
 - Use recruiters to extend your recruiting force

SOCGuard Mission

To integrate postsecondary education with the key functions of the Army National Guard and to further educational opportunities for ARNG members and their families.



SOCGuard...

- Serves as the higher education *liaison and advisor* to the Army National Guard.
- Assists each state ESO in *college outreach* by conducting college workshops and campus visits.
- Provides training to assist the ARNG in *recruiting and retaining* college capable soldiers.
- Enables ARNG members to make maximum use of available *education benefits*.
- Supports ESOs and soldiers with issues related to *mobilization*.
- Assists and collaborates with the Education Support Center (ESC), serving as the *link to institutions*.

ARNG Education Support Center (ESC)

Military education assessment and degree planning support

**Combine earned credit (traditional and non-traditional) to
create comprehensive Electronic Education Record**

**Links to databases for AARTS, SIDPERS to identify credit
earned for military experience**

Automated degree plans

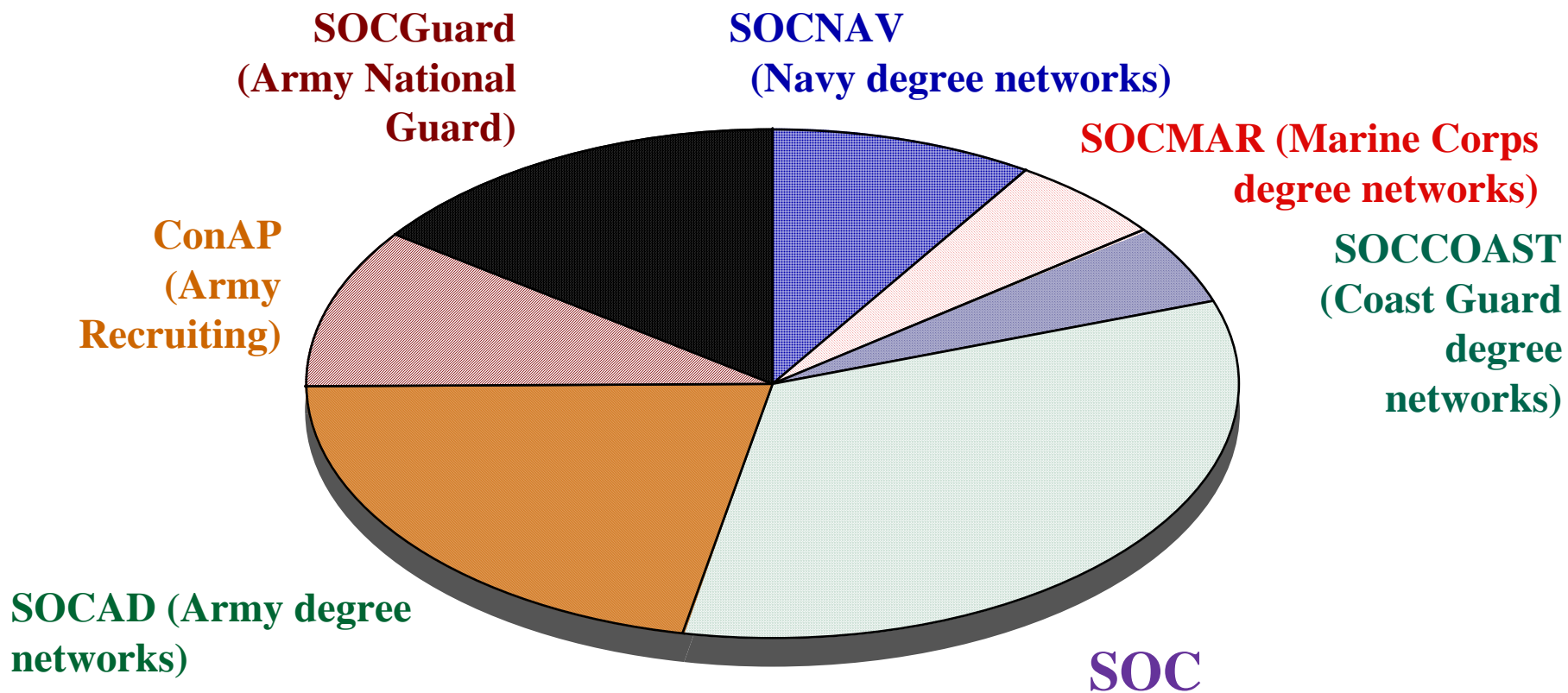
Telephone: 1-866-628-5999

Website: www.VirtualArmory.com

Location: Camp Robinson, AR



SOC's Organizational Components



Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges
1307 New York Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 800-368-5622; 202-667-0079; Fax: 202-667-0622

SOC Degree Network Program: Degree Options for Mobile Military Worldwide



**Servicemembers Opportunity
Colleges coordinates a far-
reaching program of associate
and bachelor's degrees for
services—SOCAD, SOCNAV,
SOCMAR, and SOCCOAST.**

**In most cases, SOC degree
network programs are also
available to family members of
active-duty servicemembers.**

SOC Degree Networks



**Concept began in 1981 with 2-year level
for Army (SOCAD)**

**Currently 2- and 4-year programs for Army,
Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard**

**Degree Network Status: 188 colleges and
universities system-wide**

Degree Network Member Commitments

In addition to all SOC Consortium membership commitments, SOC Degree network institutions agree to:

- Provide Student Agreement — “Contract for Degree” and formal evaluation**
- Award credit for service schools and military occupational experience where appropriate to degree**
- Participate in guaranteed two-way course transfer system among member institutions**
- Annually update courses, curricula, college information, and locations for inclusion in *Handbooks***
- Provide annual graduates report**

Differences Between SOC Consortium Membership and SOC Degree Programs

SOC Consortium Membership

Degree Network Membership

SOC Degree network participation—SOCAD, SOCMAR, SOCNAV, SOCCOAST

Academic residency limited to 25%
(30% - programs offered 100% online)

Same

Same

Accept credits for at least one
standardized testing program

Same

ACE Guide credit recommendations
for training (Service schools)

ACE Guide credit recommendations for training
(Service schools) military occupational experience

Reasonable transfer

Two-Way Guaranteed transfer of specific courses

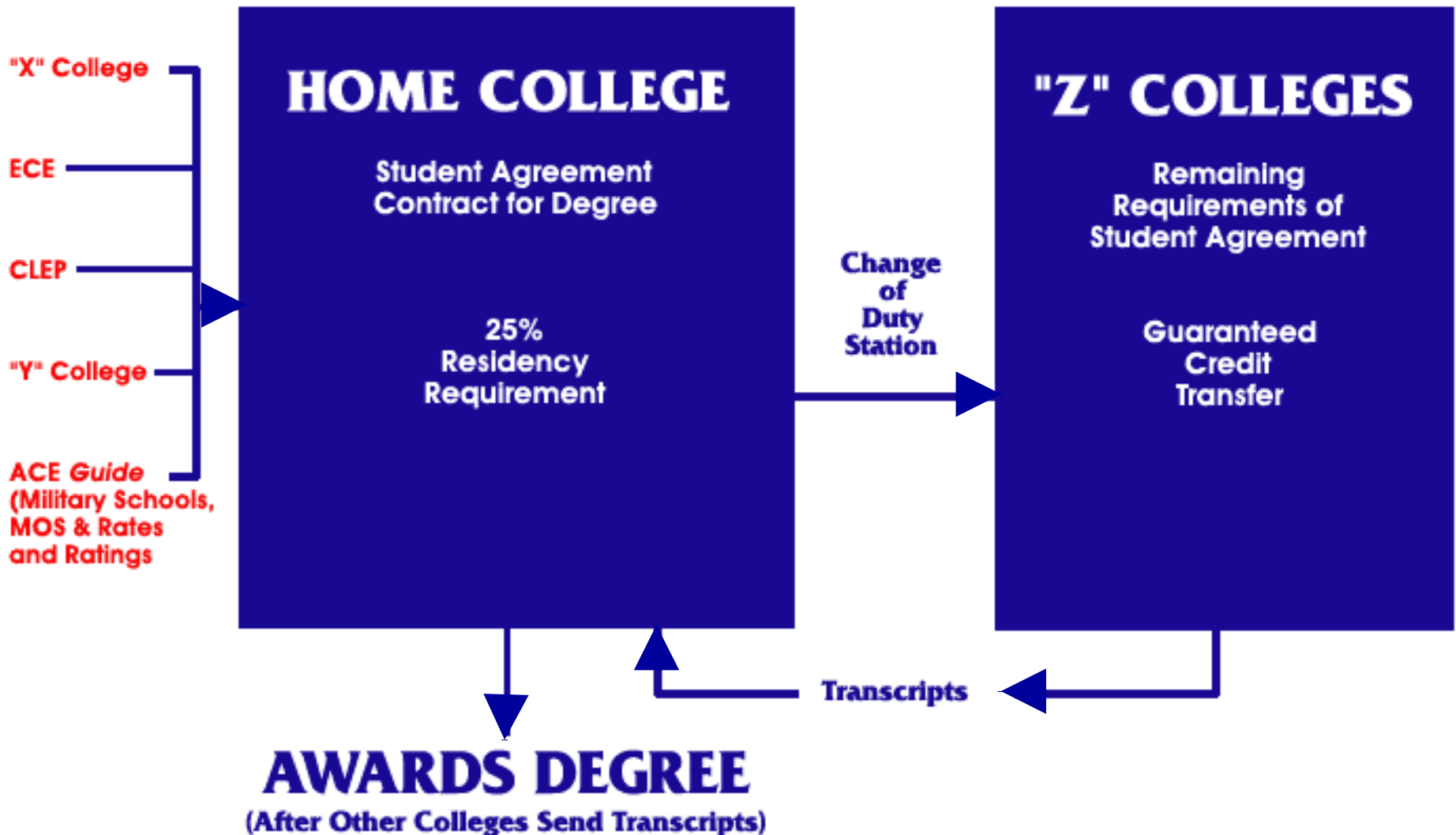
General evaluation and
degree planning

Formal evaluation of prior learning/degree
planning tool in form of the SOC Student
Agreement

How a College Becomes a SOC Degree Network Member

- **Be an institutional member of SOC**
- **Demonstrate to cognizant Service's satisfaction that institution's coursework is generally accepted by other accredited institutions**
- **Be selected by a military service for inclusion based on educational needs of installation and Service-wide contracts/MOUs**
- **At least 25% of courses in proposed degree program(s) attain guaranteed two-way transferability with member institutions at the conclusion of course transfer peer review process**

SOC's Degree Network Process



SOC Degree Network Program Overview

- **Program Overview**
- **Program Concepts and Definitions**
- **SOC Course Category Codes and Transferability**
- **Student Agreements**
- **SOC Degree Network Credit Evaluation Supplement**

SOC Degree Network Concepts

- **HOME COLLEGES** ... issue servicemembers Student Agreements, incorporating a thorough evaluation of prior learning and a degree plan; graduate the servicemember when he/she completes residency and remaining degree requirements.
- **CURRICULUM NETWORKS** ... similar curricula from various SOC degree network colleges grouped by academic area.
- **COURSE CATEGORY CODES** ... provide a way to organize comparable courses whose descriptions are exchanged and approved by all the networked colleges. Servicemembers can take approved courses from any participating network school and have their acceptance guaranteed at the home college.
- **TRANSFERABILITY TABLES**... list comparable courses by SOC Course Category Code that are guaranteed to transfer among SOC degree network institutions without individual prior approval.

SOC Degree Networks

...at the Associate Degree Level

Accounting	Food Service Management
Air Conditioning/Heating/Refrigeration	General Business
Allied Health Technologies	General Studies
Applied Science & Technology	Information Systems Management
Automotive Maintenance	Interdisciplinary Studies
Aviation Maintenance	Management
Business Administration	Marketing/Retailing
Computer Studies	Nuclear Technology
Construction Technology	Office Management
Criminal Justice	Paralegal Studies
Drafting	Psychology
Electronics Technology	Technical Management
Fire Science	Welding

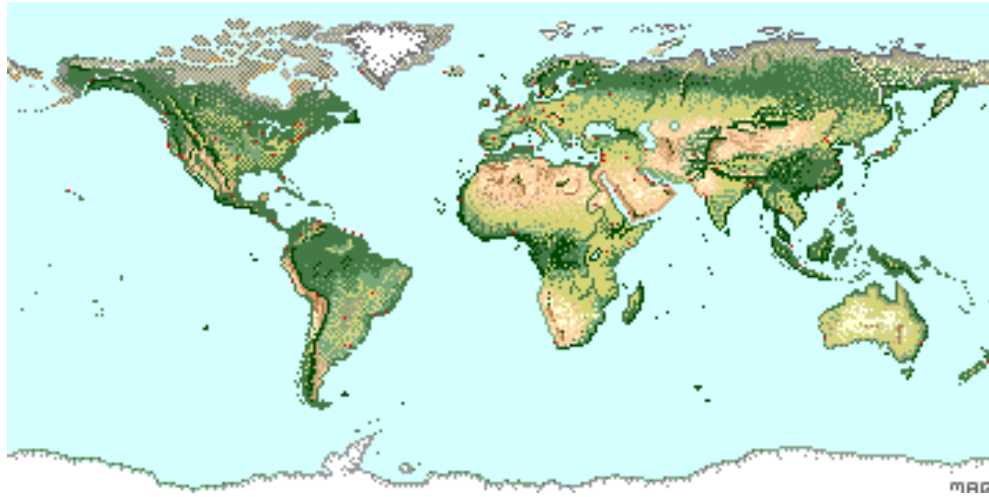


...at the Bachelor's Degree Level

Accounting	Health Services Management
Applied Science and Technology	Human Resources Management
Aviation Operations Management	Information Systems
Banking/Finance	Management
Business Administration	Interdisciplinary Studies
Computer Studies	Management
Criminal Justice	Marketing/Retailing
Education/Instructional Development	Nuclear Technology
Fire Science	Psychology
General Business	Public Administration
	Technical Management



Degree Network Educational Delivery Modes



Traditional—classroom-based instruction (optional acceptance of Distance Learning and Learning Assessment)

Distance Learning—instruction offered through independent study; delivery format may include correspondence coursework, telecourses, video cassettes, or Web-based courses (optional acceptance of Learning Assessment)

Learning Assessment—composite evaluation of prior educational and work experiences, degree management, generally few or no courses offered by the home college (accepts Traditional and Distance Learning options)

Understanding the SOC Course Categories and Categorization Process

- **Original course category system development**
—academic experts chosen by SOC
 - **Academic subject areas**
 - **General education**
- **Course by course articulation system--unique courses of the member institutions**
 - **Based on course descriptions in college catalogs**
 - **Syllabi review of expected outcomes, course objectives**
- **Course circulation process**
 - **Home college approval**
 - **Peer review approval**
- **Transferability tables**

Mapping College Courses to SOC Course Category Codes

- **Based on course description summarized in college catalog (or course syllabus when catalog description is less than complete)**
- **Course content, not title determines whether it matches generic SOC Course Category description**
- **Other factors considered:**
 - **departmental prefix**
 - **level (upper/lower)**
 - **credit hours**
 - **full-year sequence versus one-semester survey**
 - **specified requirements (e.g., # of papers written)**

EN027A -World Literature

A full-year sequence covering representative works in Western and non-Western literary traditions across written history. Addresses the historical, cultural, and political significance of selected great works in novels, short stories, drama, poetry, and essays.

- **Anne Arundel Community College**
 - ENG 211 World Literature 1 3 sh AND
 - ENG 212 World Literature 2 3 sh
- **Austin Peay State University -Fort Campbell Campus**
 - ENG 2010 World Literature I 3 sh AND
 - ENG 2020 World Literature II 3 sh
- **Brookdale Community College**
 - ENGL 235 World Literature I 3 sh AND
 - ENGL 236 World Literature II 3 sh
- **Calhoun Community College**
 - ENG 271 World Literature I 3 sh AND
 - ENG 272 World Literature II 3 sh
- **Cameron University**
 - ENG 2713 Survey World Literature thru Renaissance 3 sh AND
 - ENG 2723 Survey World Literature since Renaissance 3 sh

Deciphering the Course Category Code

Example: EC002A

- **Two-letter prefix indicates subject area**
Example: EC=Economics
- **Three-digit number identifies specific category**
topic: Principles of Economics
- **Appended single letter signifies the degree-**
related category: A=Associate
B=Bachelor

Category Subject Areas By Prefix

Subject Area Prefix

**EN=English Language
and Literature**

**HM=Hospitality
Management**

Category Sub-Areas

- **English Composition**
 - **British Literature**
 - **World Literature**
 - **Written Business Communications**
 - **Technical Writing**
-
- **Introduction to Food Service**
 - **Nutrition**
 - **Food Purchasing**
 - **Computer Systems in HM**
 - **Hospitality Law**

Category Sub-Areas By Prefix

(continued)

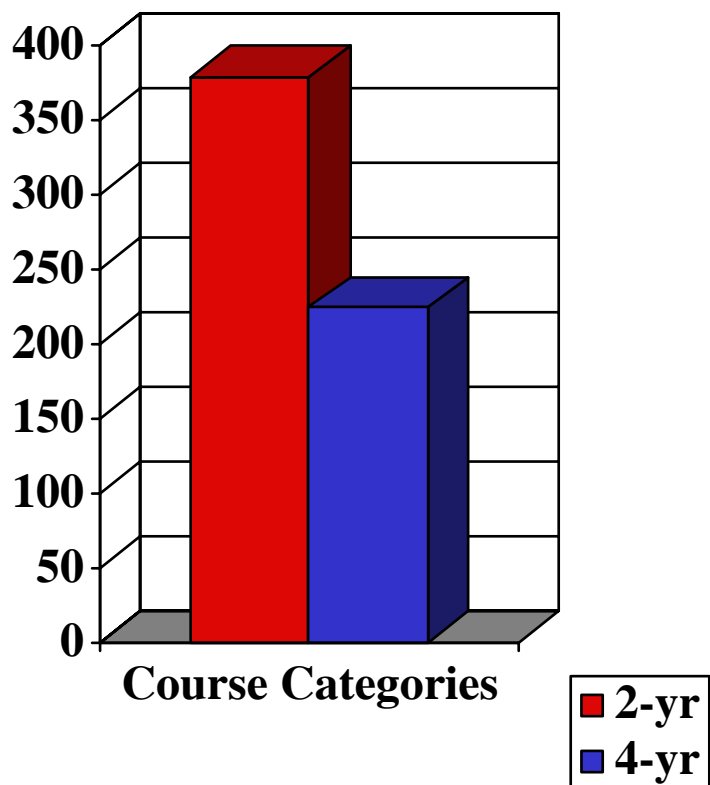
Subject Area Prefix

- **AH=Allied Health**
- **FA=Fine, Applied, and Performing Arts**
- **HL=Health/ Fitness/ Wellness**
- **VO=Vocational Trades**

Category Sub-Areas

- **Hospital Management, Medical Records Admin,**
- **Emergency Medical Training**
- **Drama, Painting**
- **Music Appreciation**
- **First Aid, Physical Fitness, Physical Education**
- **Auto Maintenance**
- **Construction, Drafting,**
- **HVAC, Welding**

SOC Degree Network Fact Sheet



- 379 2-year course categories
- 224 4-year course categories
- 8,463 active college courses in 2-year t-tables
- 4,641 active college courses in 4-year t-tables
- 24,702 courses maintained in database (active courses and those “befored”)

SOC Degree Network

Student Agreement

CONTRACT FOR DEGREE

Student Signature (optional):

When Student enrolls in another SOCAD college, consult *SOCAD Handbook* for courses that will transfer back to home college to degree requirements. STUDENT: After completing courses at another SOCAD college, request that transcripts of grades

 **Clearly portrays remaining requirements for degree completion**

SOC Degree Networks CD



- **Set of 8 SOC Degree Network *Handbooks*, 2- and 4-year**
- **Student Agreement Instructions (step-by-step guide for colleges)**
- **Student Agreement Templates:**
SOCAD SOCCOAST
SOCNAV SOCMAR

SOC Degree Programs Credit Evaluation Supplement

**Companion publication to be used with the SOC degree
network *Handbooks* and *ACE Guide***

- **Credit evaluation guide for college advisers and counselors.**
- **Maps *ACE Guide* credit recommendations to appropriate SOC Course Category Codes, where applicable. Encourages evaluators to map *ACE Guide* credit recommendations to degree requirements rather than to “free electives.”**
- **Available on the SOC Web site (<http://www.soc.aascu.org>), as printed document, and on CD-ROM.**

SOC's Balancing Act...

- **Subject matter experts develop new course categories based on existing degree programs offered to military**
- **College membership voluntary, not contractual**
- **Peer review of courses critical to the addition of new courses and creation of new categories**
- **Pacing college mailings for new college members and added course categories important so we don't overload the system-sensitive to academic/administrative workloads**

Contact Us



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